

From: Rob Steinbach
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/11/02 1:37pm
Subject: About the proposed barring deposition disclosure for Microsoft

Dear Sirs:

If Microsoft was to get their way, allowing pretrial depositions to be prevented from public disclosure, then I think it would be a disservice to the entire justice system.

I was taught in childhood that nearly the entire American justice process was supposed to be open, with some notable exceptions, not secret courts that effectively prevent defense, or prosecution, of the defendant.

I don't believe that Microsoft's pretrial depositions fall into one of these exceptions. Since very little of the depositions will deal with actual trade secrets, then I don't see how Microsoft could reasonably expect the judge to uphold their requests.

I urge that the judge consider the nature of the request and keep in mind the need for the most open trial she can have, as permitted by law and common sense.

Sincerely,
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